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25X1

21 September 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Bunker's 20 September Weekly (Saigon 6460, [REDACTED])

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1. For our immediate purposes, the most significant portion of this cable is the "pacification" section, which comprises paragraphs 11 through 13. In effect, Bunker has played the role of the US Cavalry in our dispute with Rostow. In these paragraphs Bunker explains the Hamlet Evaluation System (the old "Allen Grid"), announces that the bugs have been shaken out, and gives the August figures. The latter show 68% of the population living in GVN-controlled areas (A, B and C hamlets, plus the towns and cities), 17% in VC-controlled areas, and the remaining 25% in contested areas.

2. These figures seem solid, they square with what General Thang has independently reported on pacification progress, and put us in a position to meet Rostow's request for some material that the President can use without having to rely on data the press can pick apart.

3. Most of the rest of Bunker's cable (including the opening "General" section, comprising paragraphs 1 through 10, and paragraphs 14 through 22 of his "Political" section) deals with the current political scene. In sum, Bunker believes things are quieting down and that the results of the recent elections are likely to be accepted. He also notes some progress in the Thieu-Ky relationship. I have no reason to question his over-all judgment, but think he is a trifle sanguine on the ease with which Assembly validation of the Presidential and Senatorial elections will be obtained.

4. The remainder of the cable talks about the bombing of the ChiNat Embassy (paragraphs 23-24), the welcome dissolution of the Peoples Army Council (paragraph 25), economic (paragraph 26), Chieu Hoi (27), and casualty statistics (28).

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

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